

Marianne Hester

LYING FEMINIST OF THE MONTH



[J4MB](#) presents the March 2016 **Lying Feminist of the Month** award to Professor [Marianne Hester](#), Professor of Gender, Violence & International Policy at Bristol University. In the course of a BBC *Woman Sour* [episode](#) hosted by Jennie Murray, including Mark Brooks of [Mankind](#), a charity supporting male victims of domestic violence, about the tragic killing of David Edwards two months after his marriage to a woman with a history of being a perpetrator of domestic violence, Sophie Edwards – the story is [here](#) – Ms Hester said the following, in response to Jenni Murray’s question, ‘How common are extreme cases such as this, where a man is murdered by his female partner?’:

(Women) tend to use weapons when they’re protecting themselves and their children rather than as the instigator or primary aggressor in the situation. So... um... that’s the thing about the Edwards case that sort of fits.

The first claim is contentious, the second a downright lie. There is no evidence that David Edwards was ever anything but a *victim* of domestic violence. It’s long been known that women who inflict violence upon male intimate partners rarely do so in self-defence. A paper confirming this point – [Female Perpetrators of Intimate Partner Violence](#) – was presented by [Nicola Graham-Kevan](#) of the University of Central Lancashire, at a Mankind conference. The relevant finding:

The least-reported motive among female perpetrators (4%) for inflicting Intimate Partner Violence upon male partners was ‘protecting self from physical harm’.